June 2008 and August 2008 respectively and the same have been forwarded to Ministry of Power for furnishing their comments. Based on the recommendation of Ministry of Power, the above proposals will be placed before the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) [SCL(LT)] for power for consideration.

Import of coal

†3201. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal is imported on a large scale because of sub-standard heat value of that found in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of coal imported in metric tonnes during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the total amount being incurred on import of coal; and

(e) whether Government proposes to abolish import duty on coal so that the domestic steel, power and cement companies could get due returns?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Primarily, due to gap in demand and indigenous availability of high grade coal and economic considerations, the concerned user industries are importing coal which is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) category. Some coal is also being imported by the thermal power stations to meet environmental norms. The production of coal has been increasing significantly over the years but the quality of coal produced by the major producer *i.e.* Coal India Limited (CIL) is largely of lower grade *i.e.* E and F. During the year 2008-09, CIL produced about 68% of total coal pertaining to these lower grades.

(c) and (d) Import of coal during last three years both in quantity and value (CIF Value) is given below:—

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Import (Rs. in Crore)
2006-07	43.081	16689
2007-08	49.794	20738
2008-09 (Upto January, 2009)	45.907	32691

(e) No, Sir. At present, there is nil duty on imported coking coal and 5% duty on imported non-coking coal.

Regulations for mega mergers

3202. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS of be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.